UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/CONF.189/PC.3/1/Add.1
23 July 2001

Original: ENGLISH

WORLD CONFERENCE AGAINST RACISM,
RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, XENOPHOBIA
AND RELATED INTOLERANCE
Preparatory Committee
Third session
Geneva, 30 July-10 August 2001
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Prepared by the Secretary-General

GE.01-14673 (E) 250701

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Item 1. Opening of the session

1. The third session of the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance will be held at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 30 July to 10 August 2001. The session will be opened by the Chairperson of the Preparatory Committee.

Item 2. Adoption of the agenda

2. Rule 7 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council provides that the body in question "adopt the agenda for that session on the basis of the provisional agenda".

3. In its decision PC.2/6, adopted at its second session, the Preparatory Committee proposed a provisional agenda for its third session. In accordance with that decision, the Preparatory Committee will have before it the provisional agenda (A/CONF.189/PC.3/1), prepared by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 5 of the rules of procedure.

Item 3. Organization of work

4. In view of the limited time available to the Preparatory Committee at its third session, the Committee may wish to adopt decisions concerning the organization of its work, including on the frequency and duration of statements, the opening and closure of the list of speakers, and the submission of draft decisions.

5. The attention of the Preparatory Committee is drawn to the relevant resolutions concerning control and limitation of documentation (inter alia, the latest General Assembly resolutions, 52/214, 53/208 B and 54/248 C). In this regard, it is also brought to the attention of the Preparatory Committee that some documents prepared for the present session, in view of their length or late submission, cannot be issued in all official languages, the Conference Services Division of the United Nations Office at Geneva having insufficient capacity to translate documents that greatly exceed the page limits established by the General Assembly.

6. In its decision PC.1/5, the Preparatory Committee noted that the mechanism established by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1996/31 should be the framework for accreditation of non-governmental organizations. In the same decision, the Preparatory Committee established a procedure for interim accreditation of non-governmental organizations by the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee, in consultation with regional groups, during the period between the first and second sessions of the Preparatory Committee. Decision PC.2/5, adopted by the Preparatory Committee at its second session, provided a similar procedure for interim accreditation of non-governmental organizations between the second and third sessions of the Preparatory Committee. Decision PC.2/5 provides that in the event a Government raises questions concerning the accreditation of a non-governmental organization, the final decision on those cases shall be taken by the Preparatory Committee, in accordance with the standard process set out in Council resolution 1996/31. The Preparatory Committee will have before it a note by the secretariat on the accreditation of non-governmental organizations to the Preparatory Committee and the World Conference (A/CONF.189/PC.3/Misc.1).

Item 4. Review of reports, studies and other documentation for the Preparatory Committee and the World Conference

Contribution of human rights treaty bodies

7. In its resolution 54/154, the General Assembly requested, human rights mechanisms to undertake reviews and to submit recommendations concerning the World Conference and the preparations therefor to the Preparatory Committee. The Preparatory Committee will have before it the contributions of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (A/CONF.189/PC.3/2), and the Committee on the Rights of the Child (A/CONF.189/PC.3/3).

Contribution of the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights

8. In its resolution 2000/14, the Commission invited the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights to participate actively in the preparatory process for the World Conference. The Preparatory Committee will have before it a working paper submitted by Ms. Erica-Irene A. Daes, member of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations of the Sub-Commission (A/CONF.189/PC.3/4).

Contribution by the Commission on Human Rights and its special rapporteurs

9. Also in pursuance of the request of the General Assembly, in its resolution 54/154, that human rights mechanisms undertake reviews and to submit recommendations concerning the World Conference and the preparations therefor to the Preparatory Committee, the Preparatory Committee will have before it the contribution of Ms. Radhika Coomaraswamy (Sri Lanka), Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on violence against women, on the subject of race, gender and violence against women (A/CONF.189/PC.3/5). The Preparatory Committee will also have before it a compilation of documents submitted by the Chairperson of the Commission on Human Rights concerning the special debate on tolerance and respect held at its fifty-seventh session (A/CONF.189/PC.3/Misc.2).

Contributions by non-governmental organizations

10. The secretariat has received contributions from non-governmental organizations which have been accredited to the Preparatory Committee. These documents will bear the symbol A/CONF.189/PC.3/NGO/... For each contribution received, a separate document with an identifying number will be issued.

Item 5. Draft declaration and programme of action

11. At the second session the Preparatory Committee, in its decision PC.2/1 adopted at its 6th meeting on 23 May 2001, decided to establish a working group of 21 States, consisting of four representatives of each region and chaired by South Africa, to meet in closed session, and that the working group would have the following mandate: (a) to regroup or cluster paragraphs of the draft declaration and programme of actions by theme, idea and subject; (b) to identify duplicated language; and (c) to make proposals on the rationalization and restructuring of both the draft declaration and the programme of action and the possible merging of paragraphs whose

elements belong together, with a view to help simplify the text and present it in a manner which would make it negotiable. The Group of 21 accomplished part of its work during the second session of the Preparatory Committee.

12. At its 9th meeting on 1 June 2001, the Preparatory Committee adopted decision PC.2/3, by which it reconstituted the Group of 21 and provided it with the following mandate: (a) to make proposals for further reorganization of the text including determining the location of paragraphs; (b) to make proposals for merging or consolidating paragraphs; (c) to make proposals for deleting paragraphs; and (d) to make proposals to make the text more compact and workable to facilitate the negotiations. The Preparatory Committee stated in decision PC.2/3 that the mandate of the Group of 21 would be advisory in nature and that it would not have the power to negotiate. The Group of 21 met from 5 to 29 June 2001. The Preparatory Committee at its third session will have before it the following documents prepared by the Group of 21 or its Chairman. (A/CONF.189/PC.3/6 and Add.1, "Explanatory note by the Chairman on the proceedings of the Group of 21"; A/CONF.189/PC.3/7, "Draft declaration: proposals made by the Group of 21"; and A/CONF.189/PC.3/8, "Draft programme of action: proposals made by the Group of 21".)

Item 6. Provisional agenda for the World Conference; practical issues

13. The Preparatory Committee will have before it a note by the Secretary-General relating to the provisional agenda for the World Conference (A/CONF.189/PC.3/9). It will also have before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting a note on preparations for the World Conference (A/CONF.189/PC.3/10).

Item 7. Organization of the work of the World Conference and other matters

14. The secretariat will prepare, at the request of the Preparatory Committee, documentation relevant to this agenda item, for consideration prior to the conclusion of the Preparatory Committee's second session.

Item 8. Adoption of the report of the Preparatory Committee to the General Assembly

15. At the conclusion of its third session, it is expected that the Preparatory Committee will adopt a report for submission to the General Assembly.